Montana State Library



MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Howard N. Hebert, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana

George A. Morrison, Commissioner

FL. 228.



MARCH. 1962

Upward Trend ContinuesIn Industrial Employment

Non-farm employment during February set a record for that month according to estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. February non-farm employment was estimated at 157,700 after a seasonal decline of 400 from the January employment total. Employment this year is 2,900 above February, 1961, and a substantial 5,700 above the ten-year February average of 152,000. The seasonal decline of 400 workers from January to February this year is mild compared with former years. January to February declines usually range from 1,200 to 3,000 or more depending upon the severity of weather conditions.

Four Industries Exceed Last Year

Four major industrial groups showed gains in employment totals over last year, two recorded slight declines, and one remained the same. Payrolls of construction contractors were 2,300 above last February chiefly as a result of work on federal projects. Other gains were in government, up 600; service industries, up 300; and finance, insurance, and real estate, up 100. Employment advances in these groups were sufficient to outweigh losses in the transportation, utilities and communications group, down 300; and in the mining group, down 100. Employment in all manufacturing industries, at 18,700, remained the same as a year ago.

Qualified Miners in Demand

Expansion of metal mining operations at Butte has created a demand for experienced

WINTER EMPLOYMENT DECLINE ABOUT OVER; BACK TO WORK SEASON READY TO BEGIN

The grip of winter which limits and depresses labor market patterns about five months of every year left 20,629 jobseekers registered at the state's 22 local employment offices at the end of February. The total was down a scant 300 from January but was 2,800 fewer than February of last year. The ten-year average of jobseekers for the month of February is 17,820. New job applicants during February were counted at 3,301 compared with 3,176 a year ago.

Good Trends Prevail

Industrial employment so far this year has exceeded comparable periods of a year ago. Despite some temporary weather-caused interruptions in outdoor work, including construction and lumbering, labor market activity remained at good levels. Business at main street establishments was generally good with the exception of some farm areas where reduced farm income, because of last year's drought, held consumer spending in check. The outlook on the farm front is more optimistic for this year, but the results will not show until after the harvests next fall.

The first spring trends of rising employment usually occur in late March. At that time, employment in trade and service industries; construction, lumbering, and logging; railroads; forest, irrigation, and farm services starts to advance The direction of spring and summer employment patterns looks good. But the problem of some unemployment will remain. There just won't be enough jobs for everyone who wants to work.

summer employment patterns looks good. But the problem of some unemployment will remain. There just won't be enough jobs for everyone who wants to work.

The improved job situation this year is reflected in increased job orders from employers and more workers placed in jobs. Industrial employers listed 1,941 job openings with the state's 22 local employment offices during February, an increase of 5.7 percent over last year. Workers placed on jobs by employment service offices totaled 1,751, an increase of 14.4 percent over February, 1961.

and qualified hard rock contract miners. Although Butte is an area of substantial and persistent labor surplus, many of the unemployed are in occupations outside the mining industry. Many qualified miners have left the Butte area following cutbacks in mining which began in mid 1957. It now becomes necessary to go outside the Butte area in search for these workers.

Smelter Employment Advances

Recall of smeltermen to employment at Anaconda and Great Falls exhibited good trends. Hiring was most active at Anaconda where all former employees were expected to be back to work by mid-March and some new hiring was anticipated. Hiring at the Great Falls smelter was on a lesser scale, but the upward trend was expected to continue.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
INDUSTRY	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) Jan 1962	2)Dec 1961	Jan. 1961	Jan. 1962	Dec. 1961	Jan. 1961	Jan. 1962	Dec. 1961	Jan. 1961	Jan. 1962	Dec. 1961	Jan. 1961	Jan. 1962	Dec. 1961	Jan. 1961
3) All Manufacturing	4.1	2.3 2.1 1.7 2.5	2.8 3.6 4.7 1.4	2.2 2.8 .1 1.1	1.0 1.0 .1 1.0	1.7 2.1 3.7 .9	3.9 4.7 2.5 2.5	4.0 5.1 2.6 2.0	3.9 5.1 5.6 1.7	1.1 1.2 .3 .8	1.0 1.1 .6 .8	.9	2.0 2.4 .7 1.3	2.2 2.9 .6 .8	2.4 3.3 3.5 .9
All Mining Metal Mining	7.9 5.5	5.3 5.2	2.9 1.4	3.7 .4	1.5 .2	2.0 .4	5.6 4.5	4.8 6.8	12.7 18.1	2.0 2.0	1.6 1.9	1.0 .6	1.9	.5 .7	10.2 16.0

1) Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures previously revised on more complete returns.

3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

Montana State Library

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Mar. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg-(477 jobseekers, 81 new, 321 men, 156 women). Increased activity at smelter resulted in 60 worker callbacks. All former workers with re-employment rights expected to be back to work by April 1. Current smelter employment about 2,250. Trends in other industries still along chiefly as result of industries still slow chiefly as result of weather conditions.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,234 jobseekers, 542 new, 2,348 men, 886 women). February employment in construction, oil fields, and other outdoor industries moved up and down in response to changing weather conditions. Work on \$1 million highway interchange started. Contract let for \$½ million sewer project. Yellowtail Dam employment at 200 largely in tunnel operations. Changeable trends in Roundup coal mining opera-tions with intermittent layoffs of 50 miners. Trade and service industries holding up well, but a few small business closures noted. Spring farm employment picture looks good, but present surplus of workers expected to continue next 30 days.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident -(787 jobseckers, 152 new, 587 men, 200 women). Good trends evident in most industries despite some temporary weather-caused suspensions in outdoor activities. Logging and sawmill operations expected to keep steady pace. Upswing in trade and service employment evident with start of spring season. Idle cement plant expected to reopen mid March.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,705 jobseekers, 270 new, 1,074 men, 631 women). Mining employment up with expansion of zinc operations as result of firmer market prices. Start of construction of copper concentrating plant and interstate high-way section slated for early April. Trade and service trends fairly stable for winter season. Calving and lambing provided farm jobs with more to come as spring work season begins.

CUT BANK—(495 jobseekers, 89 new, 377 men, 118 women). Cold weather put a damper on most labor market activity during February. Practically no building construction existed. Oil field work slowed considerably with only one rig active. Sheep shearing, livestock feeding, and general maintenance comprised bulk of farm work.

DILLON—(251 jobseckers, 64 new, 192 men, 59 women). Work on Clark Canyon Dam main construction project with about 130 employed. Other projects limited to small commercial units and remodeling. Twenty new homes on early building agenda. Bridge and highway construction halted.

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb. Avg.
	1962	1962	1961	1953-62
Industrial Employment New Job Applicants	157,700	158,100	154,800	152,000
	3,301	3,984	3,176	3,666
Job Applicants, End of Month	20,627	20,916	23,445	17,820
Insured Unemployment, Week of	Mar. 2 1962	Feb. 2 1962	Mar. 3 1961	Avg. 1st Mar. Wk. 1958-62
New and Renewal Claims Unemployed Weeks Filed Total Unemployment Claims	1,674	1,474	1,469	1,601
	11,781	12,672	18,071	16,007
	13,455	14,146	19,540	17,611

Most trade and service industries still pas-

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim-(616 jobseekers, 96 new, 494 men, 122 women). Outdoor work reduced substantially with completion of some air base projects and postponement of others until favorable weather. Seventy construction workers presently on air base projects with additional 300 government civilian workers employed in base operations. Main street business shows effects of reduced farm income and construction payrolls decline. Present farm hiring trends poor.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(293 jobseekers, 61 new, 227 men, 66 women). Despite mild weather, no construction starts planned until after April 1. Oil field activity dropped with some operators moving to other areas. Rumors persist about increased oil exploration and drilling, but fu-ture plans are cloaked in secrecy. Main street establishments and public utility firms provided most February job orders.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanfurd—(3,040 jobseckers, 403 new, 2,155 men, 885 women). Trade firms and missile site contractors provided most February job orders. Most construction projects on unsteady schedules as weather permitted. Good hiring trends continue in white collar classifications.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(586 jobseckers, 65 new 458 men, 128 women). Steady trends prevailed in lumber industries with good demand for timber fallers and other workers. Spring breakup conditions will curtail field operations in March, but mill work should continue unchecked from log stockpiles. Trade and construction hiring also advanced during February.

11AVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(750 jobseekers, 86 new, 638 men, 112 women). Cold weather cut hiring during February, but trends appear brighter as weather im-proves. Start of construction on building and road projects expected to pick up soon. Trends in trade and service employment still

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs-(846 jobseekers,

147 new, 597 men, 249 women). Weather conditions forced temporary suspensions of work on interstate highway project, cement plant, Fort Harrison expansion, and others. New shopping center completely enclosed with interior work progressing well; completion scheduled April 1. February labor demand mostly for clerical and sales workers. Shortage of experienced stenographers

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,882 jobseekers, 134 new, 1,395 men, 487 women). Stepped-up activity in outdoor work, with exception of logging, brought first seasonal drop in un-employment totals. Logging operations re-duced by early spring breakup conditions. Two sawmills resumed operations during month. Future employment outlook brightened by plans to bring natural gas to Flat-head Valley. No farm hiring during Feb.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(385 jobseekers, 63 new, 313 men, 72 women). Construction and trade industries accounted for more than half of February hires. Job placements down seasonally from January but above year ago, chiefly as result of missile site projects. Farm hiring starting to rise with good spring prospects.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(548 jobseekers, 49 new, 395 men, 153 women). Highway projects, building construction, and logging activities curbed during month because of inclement weather. A few railroad layoffs noted, bringing curtailment to 24 workers since first of year. Seasonal lull in trade and service establishments, but upswing noted at month's end. Farm hiring and with demands for season hard-layers. good with demands for ranch hands and farm couples.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(455 jobseekers, 39 new, 394 men, 61 women). Labor market patterns not too active, but on par with year ago. Most outside work on limited scale with no appreciable upturn seen until weather improves. Good schedule of road construction awaits resumption.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,840 jobseekers, 407 new, 1,211 men, 629 women). February job hiring over

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousauds)*

	Jan.	Fcb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1954	148.8	147.6	149.4	153.4	158.0	164.1	166.6	167.8	157.1	156.1	160.3	158,0	157.2
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170,0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	156.9	154.8	156.0	159.5	164.6	172.9	175.2	176.6	174.6	171.6	167.3	164.2	166.2
1062	159 1	157 7**											

^{*} Estimates revised on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. **Preliminary Estimate.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Mar. 1

year ago sparked by good trends in fields of construction, trade, and lumber industries. Construction of city sewage system and highway improvement pirojects awaits better weather. Work on downtown highway bridge making fairly good progress.

POLSON—(710 jobseekers, 337 new, 462 men, 248 women). Stability of sawmill and plywood mill employment adds up to good labor market picture. \$34 million on construction agenda including new super mar-ket, sewage lagoon, and elementary school building. Area Indians registering for em-ployment in connection with reservation redevelopment program.

SHELBY—(430 jobseekers, 56 new, 311 men, 119 women). Favorable weather during part of month allowed start of some construction projects and accounted for in-creased activity in oil fields. Four new building projects and road construction awaiting better weather. Farm hiring stepped up considerably with start of sheep shearing and other farm work.

SIDNEY—(379 jobseekers, 64 new, 344 men, 35 women). Labor market patterns generally passive, but fairly good employment trends in main street establishments. Building construction practically non-existent, but some small repair and remodeling projects in progress. Farly spring farm projects in progress. Early spring farm work including calving, lambing, and sheep shearing on a limited basis.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(371 jobseekers, 48 new, 315 men, 56 women). Shut-down of logging operations common throughout the month because of weather conditions. Mill employment fairly stable after some temporary interruptions. Building construction chiefly in shape of small remodeling projects. Employment at stone quarries at good levels. Forest and irrigation service crews to be expanded mid-March. March.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey — (547 jobseekers, 48 new, 449 men, 98 women). Construction employment down due to completion of some commercial and residential projects. New project starts de-pendent on weather. Closure of two cafes and staff reductions at a few retail stores adversely affected main street employment. Two oil rigs active in area with no change in employment seen next 30 days. Only light demand for farm help.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employ-ed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 850 selected Montana establish-
- (5) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,336 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
 (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	EM	PLOYME	Net Change			
INDUSTRY	Feb. 1962 (2)	Jan. 1962 (3)	Feb. 1961	Jan. '62 to Feb. '62	Feb. '61 to Feb. '62	
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	157,700	158,100	154,800	- 400	2,900	
Manufacturing	18,700	19,200	18,700	500	00	
Durable goods	11,700	11,700	11,700	00	00	
Lumber and timber products Primary metals Other (4)	6,800 3,500 1,400	3,500	6,700 3,600 1,400	100 00 100	100 00	
Nondurable goods	7,000	7,500	7,000	500	0	
Food and kindred productsPrinting and publishingPetroleum refiningOther (5)	3,600 1,700 800 900	1,700 800	3,700 1,700 900 700	00	_ 10	
Mining	4,000	4,000 800	6,900 4,000 700 2,200	00 100	0	
Contract Construction	9,600 2,500 3,800 3,300	2,400 3,700		[100	20 2,10	
Transportation and utilities	17,300 7,800 3,700 5,800	7,900 3,700	17,600 8,100 3,600 5,900	— 100 00	30 10	
Trade	37,200 8,200 29,000 5,300 4,800 6,700 5,700 6,500	8,200 29,100 5,400 4,800 6,700 5,600	29,000 5,500 4,700 6,700 6,000	- 100 - 100 00 00 100	- 20 10 - 30	
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,700	6,800	6,600	100	10	
Services and miscellaneous	22,200 2,400 2,000 17,800	2,400 2,000	2,300 2,000	00	10	
Government Federal State and local	39,200 10,000 29,200	10,100	38,600 9,600 29,000] 100	40	
Great Falls Area (Cascade County) Manufacturing Contract construction Transportation and utilities Trade, wholesale and retail. Services and miscellaneous (7) Government	2,800 2,000	3,400 2,600 2,000 5,300 4,600	3,100 2,000 2,000 5,100 4,400	00 200 00 00 00	30 80 0 20 20	
Billings Area (Yellowstone County) Manufacturing Contract construction Transportation and utilities Trade, wholesale and retail Finance, Insurance, Real Estate Services and miscellaneous (8) Government	2,800 7,200 1,500	3,300 900 2,700 7,300 1,500 3,700	2,900 1,300 2,700 7,000 1,400 3,900	- 400 100 100 - 100 00 00	- 30 10 20 10 - 20	

⁽⁶⁾ Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motton pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership or-

ganizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

⁽⁷⁾ Same as (6) above. Also includes finance, insurance, real estate and mining.

⁽⁸⁾ Same as (6) above. Also includes mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN FEB. 1962 AND FEB. 1961

Employment	Nev	w Job	Applica	ints	Jol	seeke	rs in F			Job Placement							UI CI	
Service	Feb.	1962	Feb.	1961	Feb.	1962	Feb.	1961		Feb.	1962			Feb.	1961		Wk	. 3-2
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1962	1961
Anaconda Billings Bozeman Butte Cut Bank Dillon Glasgow Glendive Great Falls Hamilton Havre Helena Kalispell Lewistown Livingston Miles City Missoula Polson Shelby Sidney Thomp. Falls Wolf Point	542 152 270 89	13 8 5 78 45 9 8 12	57 605 107 123 74 68 103 59 581 49 53 1700 153 96 90 62 410 90 101 34 37 54	132 21 19 23 24 12 12 147 7 15 50 29 24 23 10 62 62 44 29 10	477 3,234 787 1,705 495 251 616 293 3,040 586 750 846 1,882 385 548 455 1,840 710 430 379 371 547	76 815 160 389 92 69 197 78 838 144 193 242 414 100 137 155 472 157 110 58 112 122	685 694 1,095 2,198 546 713 667 1,396 538 557 397 368	104 830 159 685 162 85 170 94 927 170 208 360 554 166 149 390 158 155 98 115	18 372 121 87 227 321 46 234 222 58 98 65 50 37 37 143 59 44 222 22 32	6 79 20 4 566 36 11 3 69 11 30 4 4 19 9 28 6 5 5 25 12	24 451 141 91 83, 68 72 49 303 33, 88 102 65 69 46 65 149 64 69 34 23 34	7 185 29 15 15 26 25 10 94 6 20 20 23 10 16 8 38 17 21 11 11	13 343 106 61 23, 23 85 17 59 105 104 44 205 17 47 34 112 20 12 17	6 56 27 9 129 31 2 183 18 20 5 5 22 3 15 10 10 	19 399 133 70 152 54 87 46 388 35 79 110 66 65 50 49 122 19 228 30 12 32	5 142 39 17 38 23 17 46 3 24 23 13 16 14 13 29 7 33 12 4 9	268 2,182 503 935 287 176 450, 235 1,783 282 415 806 1,472 318 485 387 995 324 252 279 288 333	569 579 905 2,408 330 609 572 1,418 528 439 382 383
TOTALS	3,301	627	3,176	710	20,627	5,130	23,445	6,051	1,688	435	2,123	636	1,503	742	2,245	544	13,455	19,540

^{*}Includes 596 claims of the Fed. UC program 738 same a year ago. 1,596 claims under the Fed. TEC program not included.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average	Weekly	Earnings	Averag	ge Weekly	Hours	Average Hourly Earnings			
INDUSTRY	Feb.(1) 1962	Jan.(2) 1962	Feb. 1961	Feb.(1) 1962	Jan.(2) 1962	Feb. 1961	Feb.(1) 1962	Jan.(2) 1962	Feb. 1961	
All Manufacturing	\$ 96.89	\$ 95.13	\$ 95.23	38.6	37.9	38.4	2.51	2.51	2.48	
Durable goods Primary metals	92.13 106.75	90.04 103.46	90.96 99.50	37.3 40.9	36.6 40.1	37.9 39.8	2.47 2,61	2.46 2.58	2.40 2.50	
Nondurable goodsFood and kindred products	105.82 88.62	104.38 87.31	99.96 86.73	40.7 42.2	40.3 40.8	39.2 41.3	2.60 2.10	2.59 2.14	2.55 2.10	
All Mining	108.81	104.93	102.97	40.6	39.3	39.3	2.68	2.67	2.62	
Metal mining	103.98	103.98	101.92	38.8	38.8	39.2	2.68	2.68	2.60	
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	99.77	99.52	98.02							
Transportation (except railroads)Utilities and communiaction	105.32 96.13	104.96 96.08	102.27 95.76	38.3	38.9	39.9	2.51	2.47	2.40	

⁽¹⁾ Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

UCC BUILDING
P. O. Box 1728
HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
United States Postage
Accounted for Under
Act of Congress



Montana State Library